



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu - Executive Director of STAR-Ghana Foundation

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Partners,

I am happy to share with you our newsletter, following a hiatus of more than a year occasioned by the transition from the STAR-Ghana programme to the Foundation. A newsletter that enables us to provide timely information about the work of the organisation is critical to the achievement of our objectives and we expect to touch base with you every two months via the newsletter. The period under review has been exciting and provided so many stepping stones for the realisation of our objectives.

Active citizenship is at the heart of the Foundation's ethos, reflected in its Vision and Mission statements and its description of itself as a 'Centre for active citizenship and philanthropy. During the period under review, we launched our Active Citizenship strategy, to provide a framework to guide and support our work.

### SNEAK PEEK

- **MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
- **STORIES OF CHANGE**
- **NEWS FROM SECRETARIAT**
- **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**
- **MORE.....**

With support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in partnership with the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), the Foundation has since 2021 been working with a number of partners to pilot innovative approaches to local resource mobilisation for inclusive development. We held learning meetings with our partners to harvest emerging lessons for wider dissemination. In the same vein, we started work during the period on the strengthening of the ecosystem for Social Enterprise in Ghana as a strategy for inclusive development and civil society sustainability.

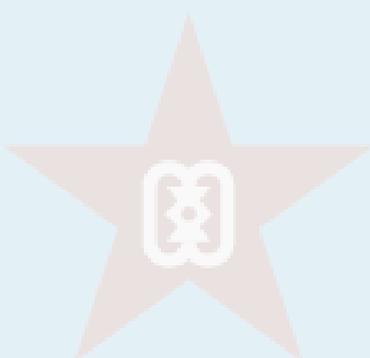
We continued our work, with funding from FCDO, on facilitating inclusive access to quality social services, particularly health, education and social protection. The research papers we commissioned were disseminated and used as inputs for engagements with Parliament and other stakeholders.

Our Security, Stability and Development project in northern Ghana, funded by FCDO, ended during the period. The end-of-project conversations with stakeholders provided very useful lessons for wider conflict, security and development programming in northern Ghana in particular.

Details of these and other exciting activities undertaken during the period are provided in subsequent sections of the Newsletter and on our website ([www.star-ghana.org](http://www.star-ghana.org)). I hope you enjoy reading them. Do get in touch with us via Facebook, email ([info@star-ghana.org](mailto:info@star-ghana.org)) and our website with your comments, questions and other contributions.

Best wishes and greetings from the Secretariat

Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu  
Executive Director



# STAR GHANA FOUNDATION



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# LESSONS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: STAR-GHANA ORGANIZES NATIONAL FORUM ON SOCIAL PROTECTION



Group photograph at the launch of STAR-Ghana Foundation Active Citizenship Strategy

## STAR-GHANA FOUNDATION ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP STRATEGY LAUNCHED

Active citizenship (AC) is at the heart of STAR-Ghana's identity and work. To provide a framework for its work in this area, and a resource for other stakeholders engaged in active citizenship work, the Foundation has developed an Active Citizenship strategy which it launched at events in Accra and Tamale. The strategy provides a framework to support the Foundation and other stakeholders to promote and strengthen innovative models of active citizenship initiatives in the country. [Read more STAR Ghana launches its Active Citizenship Strategy \(star-ghana.org\)](#)



A Journalist making submissions at a SGF Active Citizenship Media Soiree

## FUNDING PARTNERS



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office



Weaknesses in Ghana's social protection system were exacerbated and exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. SGF, under its Partnerships Beyond Aid (PBA) programme funded by FCDO, commissioned a study by the Centre for Social Policy Studies (CSPS) of the University of Ghana, Legon, to improve stakeholders' understanding of the current state of SP in Ghana and identify entry points for advocacy towards a strengthened Social Protection system. A one-day national dialogue was organised by SGF to discuss the CSPS research report and agree an action plan for coordinated advocacy by state and non-state actors. [Read more Social Protection Mechanisms in a Covid-19 Pandemic ; Understanding the impacts, response and lessons \(star-ghana.org\)](#)

## SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY



## TOWARDS AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN GHANA – STAR-GHANA FACILITATES STAKEHOLDER CONVENINGS.

Civil Society Organizations in Ghana are pushing for a vibrant social enterprise sector with a robust policy and legal framework to promote an enabling environment. STAR-Ghana Foundation is leading actions and processes to promote a well-regulated and supported social enterprise sector able to unlock partnerships and capital for inclusive sustainable development. As the world moves towards the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and yet faced with unfavourable socio-economic, environment and health challenges, Civil Society must consequently develop innovative ways including domestic resources mobilization to address these constraints. STAR-Ghana Foundation's work in this sector has so far focused on convening dialogues to develop coordinated advocacy plans and supporting the work of a steering committee to lead the implementation of these advocacy actions. [Read more...](#)

[STAR-GHANA FOUNDATION LEADS CSO'S CALL FOR A REGULATED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SPACE](#)



## STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENT'S OVERSIGHT OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR- STAR GHANA MEETS SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OTHERS

STAR-Ghana Foundation in collaboration with Africa Education Watch, SEND Ghana and Parliament's Select Committee on Education held a strategic meeting to discuss reports and surveys produced on education services delivery in Ghana. The reports included an analysis of the 2022 national budget which revealed an allocation of 12.9% to the education sector which does not meet the UNESCO threshold of 15 to 20% of public expenditure. [Strengthening Parliament's oversight of the education sector-STAR Ghana meets Parliament's select committee, others.](#) (starghana.org)

## STAR-GHANA FOUNDATION HOLDS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN LOCAL PHILANTHROPY MEETING

A meeting of the southern sector Communities of Practice (CoP) on local practice was held in Aburi, co-facilitated by STAR-Ghana Foundation and the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI). The CoPS are supported by SGF under the Giving for Change Project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Members of Parliament's Select Committee on Education meeting stakeholders



Feruzah Salisu- Giving for Change Project officer



# SECRETARIAT NEWS

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION CALLS ON SGF



RTI Commission team led by Executive Secretary, Yaw Sarpong Boateng in the photograph with SGF Executive Director and Programmes Manager STAR-Ghana Foundation received a team from the Right to Information Commission. The meeting discussed partnerships around the implementation of the RTI Law. According to the Executive Secretary, Yaw Sarpong Boateng, the Commission has instituted an annual RTI Week in September to help sensitize citizens on the law, so they can use it. The Executive Director of STAR Ghana, Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu expressed a sense of pride in the setup of the Commission and the passage of the law, and indicated STAR Ghana's commitment to collaborate with the Commission and citizens in promoting access to information.

## NEW STAFF

Meet new members of the Foundation's team. Allswell Gabrah Hooper, Juliana Oforiwaa Baidoo, and Abdullah P Ali joined the Programmes, Administration as well as the Results and Learning Department as interns.



Juliana Baidoo- Admin (Intern)



Allswell Gabrah Hooper- Programmes (Intern)



Abdullah P Ali-Results & Learning (Intern)

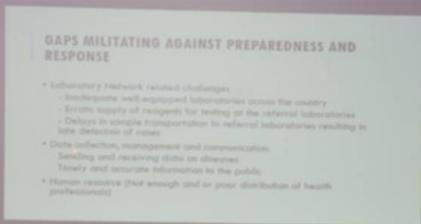
## GIVING FOR CHANGE - STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR LOCAL RESOURCES MOBILISATION THROUGH COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

The Giving for Change project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs seeks to promote development by recognizing the importance of domestic resources in increasing local ownership, and strengthening communities' ability to claim entitlements. A key strategy of the project is the convening of Communities of Practice (CoPs) bringing together the project's partners, other CSOs involved in promoting and utilising local philanthropy to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. [Giving for Change - Strengthening Capacities for Local Resources Mobilisation through Communities of Practice \(star-ghana.org\)](#)



Frank Kwaku Amoateng, Results and Learning Manager for STAR-Ghana Foundation facilitating a session on Match Funding





Some Members of Parliament's Health Committee going through a presentation on SGF's research findings

### **SGF SUPPORTS PARLIAMENT'S HEALTH COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVENESS AND HOLD AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES IN HEALTH SECTOR**

STAR-Ghana Foundation (SGF) met Parliament's Select Committee on Health to discuss findings from research it undertook on Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on health delivery, COVID-19 commodities allocations, and supply as well as Health financing and implications for policy in the health sector. The one-day strategic meeting sought to, among other objectives, provide evidence to strengthen the capacity of the committee to hold ministries, departments, and agencies to account for ensuring inclusive delivery of health services. [Read more.. SGF empowers Parliament's Health Committee to promote inclusiveness and hold agencies accountable in delivery of services in health sector \(star-ghana.org\)](#)

### **STAR-GHANA FOUNDATION FACILITATES RETURN OF TEENAGE MUM TO SCHOOL TWO YEARS AFTER QUITTING DUE TO PREGNANCY**

Imagine what it feels like to be targeted and ridiculed by your peers for being pregnant while in school; getting lost in thoughts of a shattered dream of becoming what you want to be in future and the unending agony of being reminded of your mistake at every stare in the eyes of society and relatives. That was the story of Martha Moses Akanpel. Martha was forced to quit school at age 17 when she got pregnant. Her situation forced her to stay home two years before finally getting a rare rescue opportunity. [Read more.. STAR Ghana Foundation facilitates return of teenage mom two years after dropout due to pregnancy \(star-ghana.org\)](#)

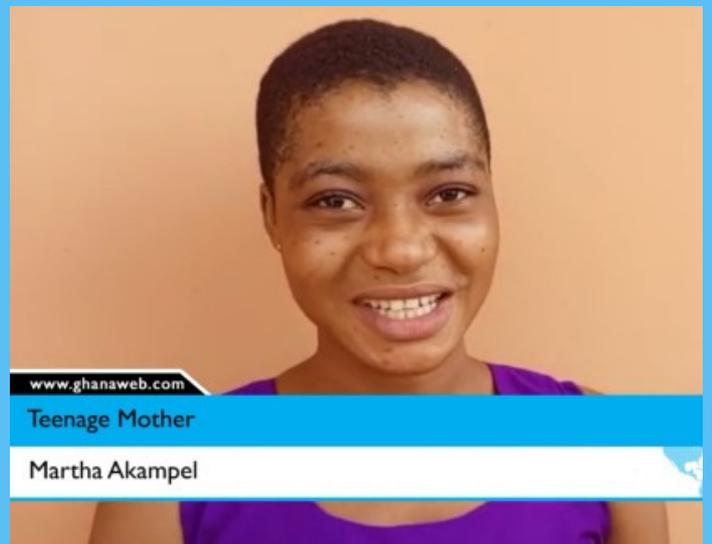
## **STORIES OF CHANGE**

### **STAR- GHANA FOUNDATION'S CSSF PROJECT RECORDS MAJOR GAINS AS MINISTRIES, REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCILS AND MMDAS MAINSTREAM PARTS OF THE ROADMAP FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY INTERVENTION**



Group photograph of participants at the CSSF convening in Tamale

STAR-Ghana Foundation (SGF) through its Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) under the Regional Response Programme has developed a roadmap for coordinating advocacy on peace, security and stability in the regions of the north in Ghana. The one-year project was piloted and implemented in the five regions in the north with the objective of contributing to address the underlying causes of conflict, insecurity and underdevelopment in Northern Ghana. Among other achievements, the project has influenced operational development plans of some six ministries including the National Security Ministry, 5 Regional Coordinating Councils and 10 MMDAs. [Read more.. STAR Ghana's CSSF Project records major gains as Ministries, Regional Coordinating Councils and MMDAs mainstream parts of the roadmap for security and stability intervention \(star-ghana.org\)](#)





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# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## AGM & ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP LECTURE

The third Annual General Meeting (AGM) of STAR-Ghana Foundation will be held in July 2022. As part of the AGM activities, a Dialogue on Active Citizenship under the theme "Channelling our Local Philanthropy towards supporting social justice, social protection and social accountability-Strategies and Tactics" will be held. The Annual Active Citizenship Dialogue has been part of the AGM since 2019. It is expected that about 100 participants drawn from Civil Society Organizations, policy makers, media, academia, and other relevant institutions would attend the event. Apart from the physical participation, an option to join virtually would also be provided to ensure the participation of all interested persons.

The Policy Lecture seeks to:

- Promote national dialogue on the concept of active citizenship and philanthropy and how it can be used to address contemporary national issues.
- Catalyse active citizenship actions at national and local levels for inclusive and sustainable national development.
- Project STAR-Ghana Foundation as a thought leader on national development issues, particularly around civil society strengthening, active citizenship, and philanthropy.

Date

Ø Policy Lecture: 29th of June 2022 at 4pm.

Ø AGM Business: 30th June 2022 at 11am



Programmes Manager for STAR-Ghana Foundation, Eunice R. Agbenyadzi with some participants at the Active Citizenship launch

## CIVIL SOCIETY TO REFLECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RTI LAW IN GHANA



Despite the passage of the Right to Information Law in Ghana, administrative and bureaucratic bottlenecks coupled with the imposition of fees by public institutions and a seeming lack of awareness among the citizenry of the law and their rights to demand for information are among a host of challenges impeding access to public information and the effective implementation of the law. Again, the measures put in place by government to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has placed an additional layer of impediments to the ease with which individuals and civil society organizations are able to access information from public institutions to hold public office holders accountable.

[Read more..](#)

[Civil Society to reflect on the implementation of RTI Law in Ghana \(star-ghana.org\)](#)

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